

image  
214  
DIGITAL  
EDITION

# SPAWN







**JON GOFF**

Plot

**TODD McFARLANE**

Additional Plot

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COLOR

**TOM ORZECOWSKI**

LETTERING

**PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN**

Jim's wedding picture piques the interest of the C.I.A. and they'll do everything within their power to make sure it goes dormant again. After offing numerous individuals, a meeting for "Operation Judas" is set up with Marc, who suspects nothing.

Jim returns to the alleys to deal with the member of the Old Guard he cast into the void. Needing answers about Bludd, Jim tortures the demon for information.

A week later, Jim takes to the stage to announce his new foundation, and all eyes are watching. However, not everyone is happy with his decision.

Further away in London, Malebolgia makes his play for the final pieces to his master plan, even if it means harming a child.

**JON GOFF**

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**image**

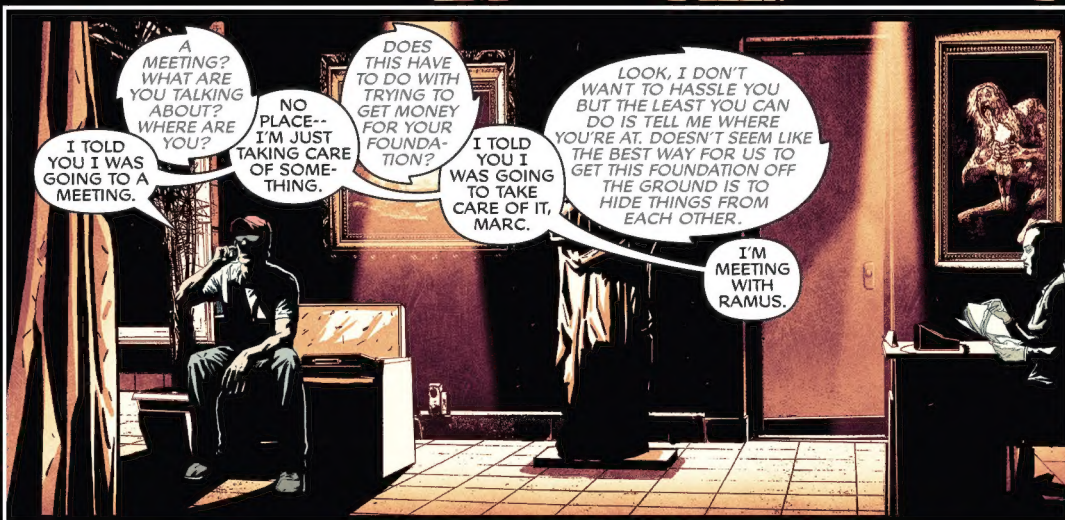
**TODD McFARLANE**  
PRODUCTIONS

**SPAWN.COM**





FINALLY!  
WHERE'VE YOU  
BEEN, JIM? I'VE BEEN  
TRYING TO REACH  
YOU FOR TWO  
HOURS!



A  
MEETING?  
WHAT ARE  
YOU TALKING  
ABOUT?  
WHERE ARE  
YOU?

NO PLACE--  
I'M JUST  
TAKING CARE  
OF SOME-  
THING.

DOES  
THIS HAVE  
TO DO WITH  
TRYING TO  
GET MONEY  
FOR YOUR  
FOUNDA-  
TION?

I TOLD  
YOU I  
WAS GOING  
TO TAKE  
CARE OF IT,  
MARC.

LOOK, I DON'T  
WANT TO HASSLE YOU  
BUT THE LEAST YOU CAN  
DO IS TELL ME WHERE  
YOU'RE AT. DOESN'T SEEM LIKE  
THE BEST WAY FOR US TO  
GET THIS FOUNDATION OFF  
THE GROUND IS TO  
HIDE THINGS FROM  
EACH OTHER.

I'M  
MEETING  
WITH  
RAMUS.



WHAT?!

WHY THE HELL  
ARE YOU BACK THERE?  
LAST TIME WE WENT YOU  
STORMED OUT OF HIS OFFICE  
LIKE HE'D INSULTED YOUR  
MOM OR SOMETHING.\* WHAT  
MAKES YOU THINK HE'LL SEE  
YOU AGAIN... OR EVEN GIVE  
YOU A NICKEL AFTER YOU  
TOLD HIM TO *SHOVE* HIS  
LAST OFFER?

\* Issue 202-- Todd



IF YOU'D TAKEN HIS  
SPONSORSHIP MONEY,  
YOU'D ALREADY HAVE ALL THE  
CAPITAL YOU'D NEED.

BUT THEN I'D BE  
BEHOLDEN TO HIM AND  
HIS CORPORATION. I DON'T  
NEED THAT. I JUST WANT  
HIS CASH-- NO STRINGS  
ATTACHED.





SO, YOU'RE GOING TO ASK HIM TO GIVE YOU 'MONEY FOR NOTHING.'

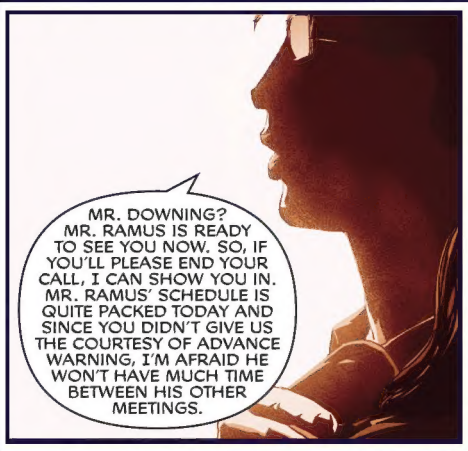
SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

THAT'S SOME KING SIZED BALLS YOU'VE GOT! WISH I HAD A PAIR LIKE THAT.



THIS SHOULDN'T TAKE TOO LONG. I'LL CALL YOU WHEN I'M DONE. YOU STILL HEADING TO YOUR MEETING?

YEAH. MY CONTACT SAID HE HAD SOMETHING FOR US. HERE'S HOPING HE FOUND OUT WHO YOUR BRIDE IS IN THAT PHOTO.



MR. DOWNING? MR. RAMUS IS READY TO SEE YOU NOW. SO, IF YOU'LL PLEASE END YOUR CALL, I CAN SHOW YOU IN. MR. RAMUS' SCHEDULE IS QUITE PACKED TODAY AND SINCE YOU DIDN'T GIVE US THE COURTESY OF ADVANCE WARNING, I'M AFRAID HE WON'T HAVE MUCH TIME BETWEEN HIS OTHER MEETINGS.

YEAH-- SURE. JUST A SECOND!

MARC, WHEN YOU MEET YOUR GUY, BESIDES GETTING WHATEVER INFO HE HAS ON MY WIFE-- ASK HIM WHERE HE GOT HIS INFO. YOU GOT IT? THAT'S IMPORTANT. I WANT TO KNOW WHERE ANY TRAIL OF INFORMATION IS COMING FROM SO I CAN GO BACK TO THE SAME PEOPLE IF I NEED TO.

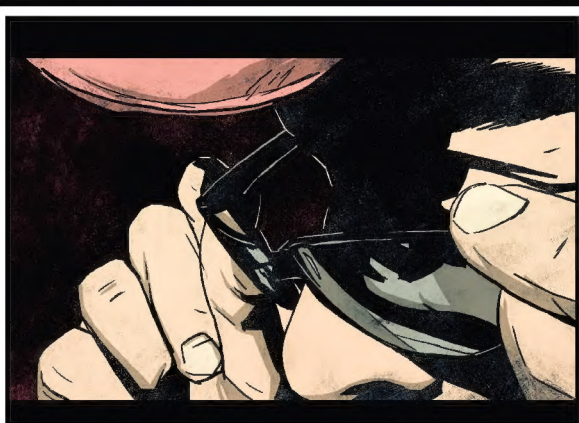
I'LL TRY. SOMETIMES THESE GUYS LIKE TO PROTECT THEIR SOURCES.

JUST DO YOUR BEST.




I WILL. AND JIM... I HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT THIS.










I'M NOT HERE TO NEGOTIATE! AND I'M NOT GIVING YOU A *DAMN* THING! QUITE THE CONTRARY. INSTEAD, YOU'RE GOING TO FULLY FUND THIS FOUNDATION AND IN RETURN OUR RELATIONSHIP REMAINS EXACTLY THE WAY IT IS RIGHT NOW. THAT'S IT. THAT'S THE DEAL!

YOU DON'T GET TO SAY ANYTHING OTHER THAN "YES, MR. DOWNING. ABSOLUTELY, MR. DOWNING." BECAUSE I ALREADY KNOW THAT YOU NEED ME. SO YOU WANT TO F\*CK WITH ME-- OR MY COSTUME OR MY POWERS? *THEN GO AHEAD! KNOCK YOURSELF OUT!* BUT IT'S GOING TO COST YOU.



AND EVERY TIME I THINK YOU'VE SENT ONE OF YOUR GOONS TO TEST ME, IT'S GOING TO COST YOU MORE.

AND IF ANYONE -- NOT THAT I *GIVE A CRAP*-- FROM THE MEDIA ASKS WHY YOU'RE DOING THIS I'M SURE YOU'RE CLEVER ENOUGH TO TELL THEM SOMETHING THAT'LL MAKE YOU AND YOUR CORPORATIONS LOOK LIKE PHILANTHROPIC SAINTS.

SO I'M SUPPOSED TO...







Fifteen hours ago.



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Now.



ONE  
OF THEM  
GOT OUT  
ALIVE.



I  
KNOW.

I NEEDED  
SOMEONE TO  
CRAWL BACK  
AND GIVE YOU  
THE NEWS.

AND SINCE IT  
WAS NEARLY DAWN WHEN  
I ATTACKED, I'M THINKING  
YOUR BOY WASN'T ABLE TO GET  
BACK HERE AS FAST AS HE WOULD  
HAVE AT NIGHT. WHICH MEANS YOU'RE  
PROBABLY SITTING THERE MAD AS  
HELL, BECAUSE YOU JUST FOUND OUT  
ABOUT IT. AND *WORSE THAN THAT*,  
I'M BETTING A FEW OF THOSE  
DOUCHEBAGS WERE RELATED  
TO YOU. RIGHT?



OH... C'MON,  
DON'T GO ALL  
SILENT ON ME--  
AND LOSE THE FIVE  
MILE STARE. YOU'RE  
BECOMING A  
CLICHÉ.



WHAT  
DO YOU  
WANT?

I  
ALREADY  
TOLD YOU.  
I WANT  
YOUR  
CASH.





YOU COULD HAVE PHONED ME FOR THAT. WHY COME HERE PERSONALLY?

BECAUSE IT WAS MY TURN TO TEST YOU.

AND DID I PASS?

YES.

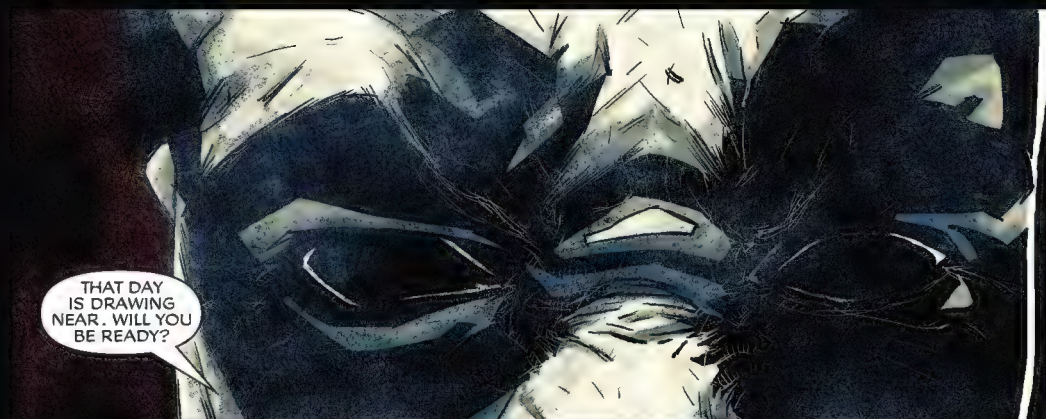


WHAT WAS THE TEST?

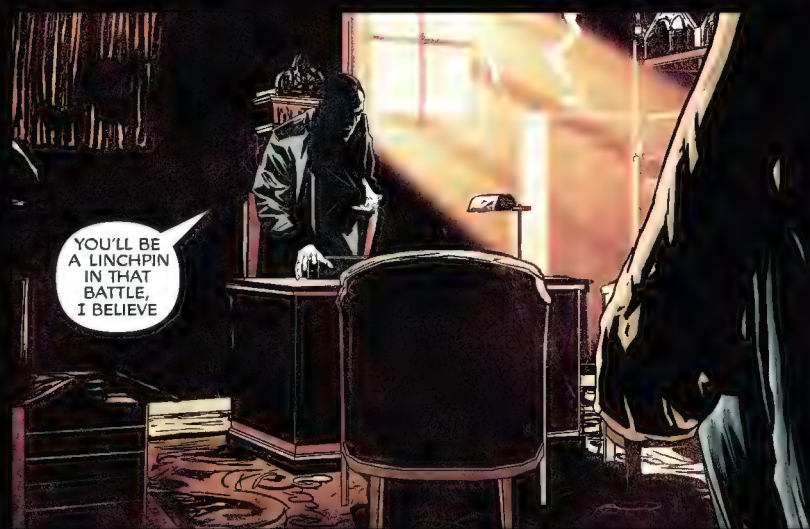
I WANTED TO SEE HOW MUCH SHIT YOU'D PUT UP WITH IF THERE WAS SOMETHING IN IT FOR YOU. IT APPEARS THE ANSWER IS-- A LOT! EVEN THOUGH I KILLED SOME OF YOUR PEOPLE AND INSULTED YOU IN THE PROCESS, YOU DIDN'T LOSE YOUR COMPOSURE. IN A BIZARRE WAY, I ADMIRE THAT.

BECAUSE WE BOTH KNOW WHAT'S COMING. WHAT WILL HAPPEN ONCE MALEBOLGIA IS WHOLE AGAIN. AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS I'M GOING TO NEED PROTECTION FOR A FEW PEOPLE I KNOW. YOU HAVE THE DISCIPLINE AND RESOURCES TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN.

AND IF YOU HELP ME--I HELP YOU.



THAT DAY IS DRAWING NEAR. WILL YOU BE READY?



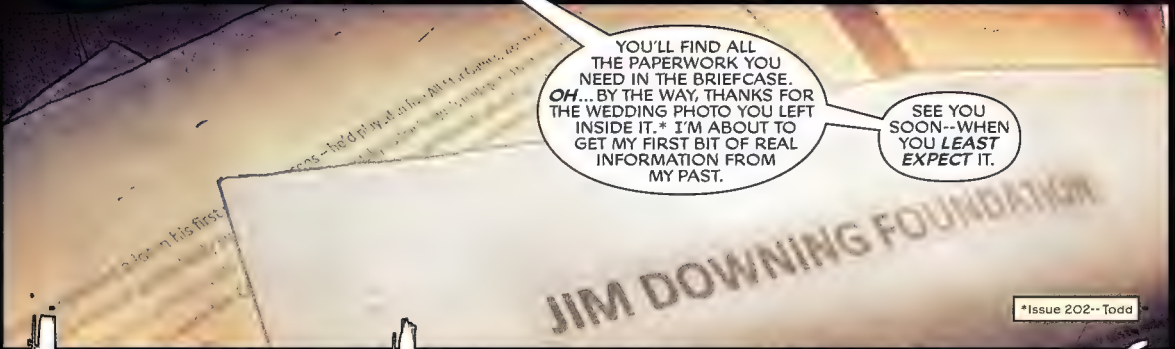
YOU'LL BE A LINCHPIN IN THAT BATTLE, I BELIEVE

THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE KEEPS SAYING. SO, WHEN THE TIME COMES, IF YOU DO YOUR PART, I'LL DO MINE.





IN THE MEANTIME, I'D LIKE TO BRING SOME HOPE TO THE WORLD. YOU GET TO BE A PART OF THAT.



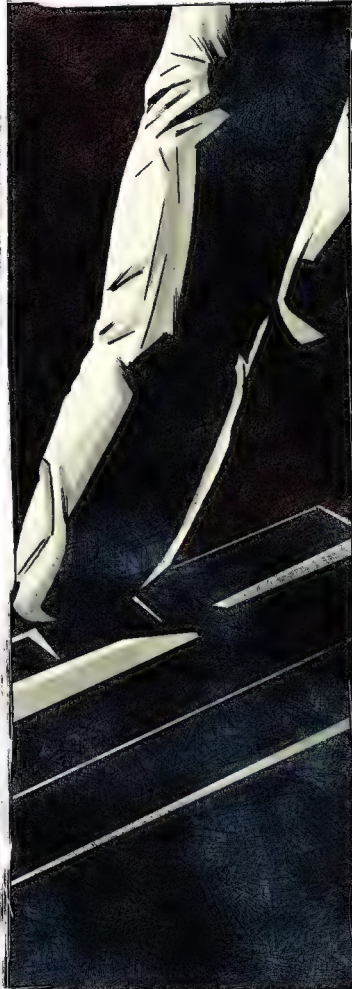
YOU'LL FIND ALL THE PAPERWORK YOU NEED IN THE BRIEFCASE. OH... BY THE WAY, THANKS FOR THE WEDDING PHOTO YOU LEFT INSIDE IT.\* I'M ABOUT TO GET MY FIRST BIT OF REAL INFORMATION FROM MY PAST.

SEE YOU SOON--WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT.

\*Issue 202--Todd



I LOOK FORWARD TO IT MR. DOWNING.



OR SHOULD I SAY... PARTNER?





HEY, JIM.  
HOW'D YOUR  
MEETING GO?  
WAS HE  
INTERESTED?



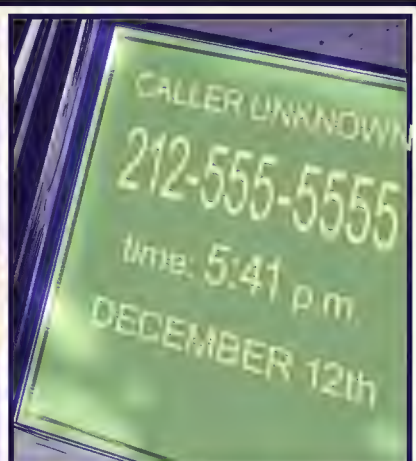
BETTER  
THAN THAT. HE  
AGREED TO GIVE  
US ENOUGH CASH  
FLOW FOR OUR  
FIRST YEAR.



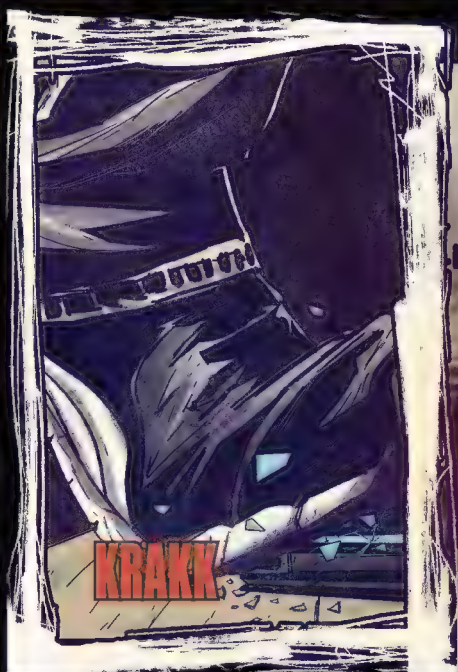
**NO  
WAY!!**

JESUS, MAN,  
WHAT'D YOU TELL  
HIM? I MEAN-- A FULL  
YEAR! THAT'S UNHEARD  
OF! NOBODY DOES  
THAT UNLESS THEY'RE  
BILL GATES.













YOU JUST BOUGHT YOURSELF SOME TIME. THAT'S GOOD.

WHO ARE YOU? AND WHAT'S ALL THIS BULLSHIT ABOUT? I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET A FRIEND OUT THERE.

I WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT, VERY HIGH-LEVEL STUFF, AND THE OTHER DAY OUR COMPUTERS THREW UP A RED FLAG. YOU SEE, A FEW PEOPLE PUNCHED IN A SEARCH FOR SOMEONE THAT OUR SIDE WOULD RATHER NOT HAVE POPPING UP -- THE PROBLEM IS WITHIN OUR OWN RANK AND FILE THERE ARE FACTIONS, EACH WITH THEIR OWN AGENDA AND SEPARATE SECURITY CLEARANCES. WHICH MEANS THAT, FROM TIME TO TIME, MY WORST ENEMIES ARE INSIDE THE GROUP I WORK FOR.

YOUR FRIEND'S NOT COMING. THEY ALREADY GOT TO HIM. SO, DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND LISTEN TO WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY.

THINK ABOUT IT LIKE TEN REPORTERS, LIKE YOURSELF, ALL FIGHTING FOR THE ONE HEADLINE THAT'LL MAKE THEIR CAREER. THEY'D ALL DO ANYTHING TO GET THERE FIRST. THAT'S HOW MY BUSINESS WORKS TOO. SO I NEEDED TO GET TO YOU AHEAD OF THEM.

THAT'S WHY I PLANTED THAT PHONE IN YOUR POCKET.

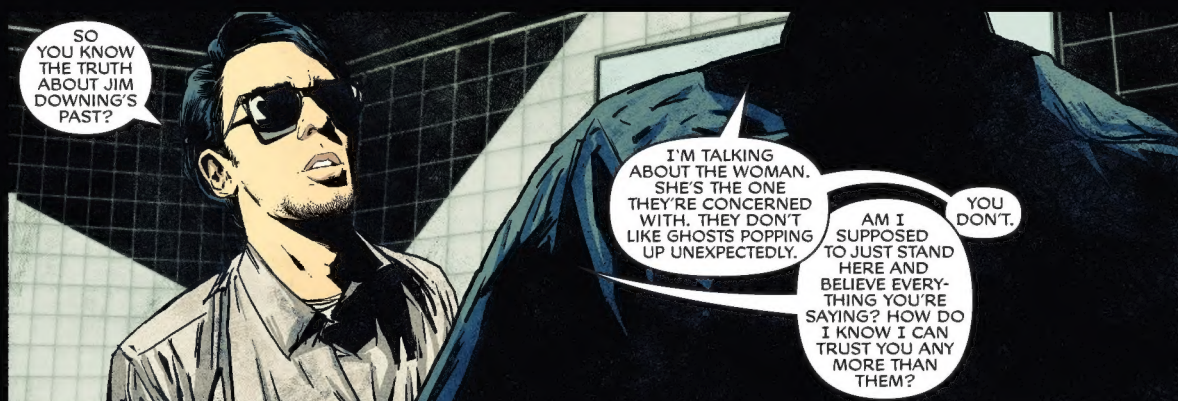
HOW'D YOU DO THAT?

WE'VE BEEN TRAINED.

NOW I NEED IT BACK.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT STARTED ALL THIS? YOU SENT A PICTURE TO PEOPLE. A PICTURE THAT SHOULDN'T EXIST.





SO YOU KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT JIM DOWNING'S PAST?

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE WOMAN. SHE'S THE ONE THEY'RE CONCERNED WITH. THEY DON'T LIKE GHOSTS POPPING UP UNEXPECTEDLY.

YOU DON'T.

AM I SUPPOSED TO JUST STAND HERE AND BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU'RE SAYING? HOW DO I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU ANY MORE THAN THEM?



I DIDN'T SAY "MIGHT."

AND YOU'RE SAYING THEY MIGHT KILL ME BECAUSE OF ALL THIS?



NO!

THIS IS CRAZY! ALL OF IT! I... I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING. I'M JUST TRYING TO HELP OUT A FRIEND.

SO GO **SCREW YOURSELF!** I DON'T NEED ANY OF THIS! I'VE GOT MY OWN CONTACTS.



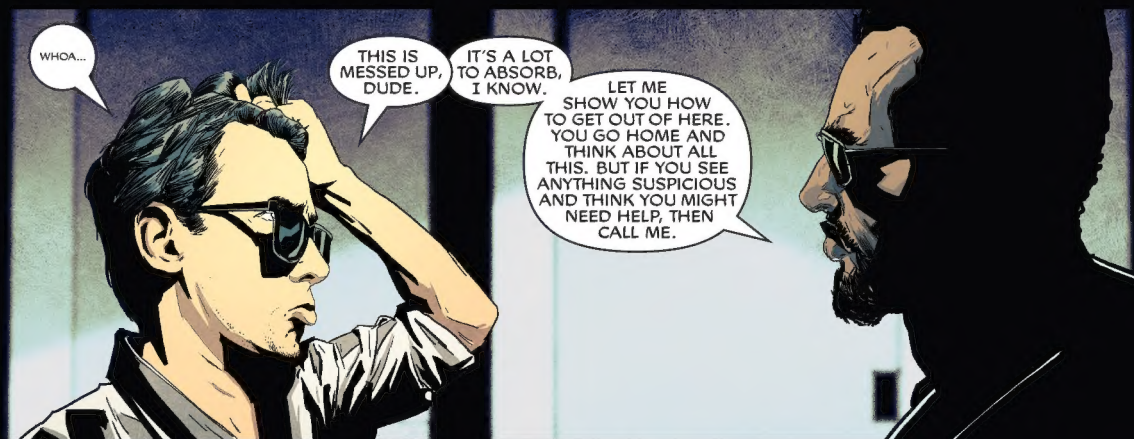
YOU DON'T GET TO WALK AWAY THAT EASY.

GET YOUR HAND OFF ME!



YOU SENT OUT THE PHOTO. YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT BACK. THEY WILL NOW HUNT YOU AND WATCH YOU UNTIL THEY THINK NO ONE'S LOOKING. LUCKY FOR YOU, YOU'VE BEEN GETTING LOTS OF MEDIA ATTENTION, SO THEY WILL BE MORE DISCRETE THAN THEIR NORM.





WHOA...

THIS IS  
MESSED UP,  
DUDE.

IT'S A LOT  
TO ABSORB,  
I KNOW.

LET ME  
SHOW YOU HOW  
TO GET OUT OF HERE.  
YOU GO HOME AND  
THINK ABOUT ALL  
THIS. BUT IF YOU SEE  
ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS  
AND THINK YOU MIGHT  
NEED HELP, THEN  
CALL ME.



AND  
WHATEVER  
YOU DO, DON'T  
CALL THE  
POLICE...

THEY'RE  
IN ON IT,  
TOO.

**TMP LIMITED HOLDINGS  
LLC**

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Next: **SECRETS UNVEILED**





Tyrant  
Lizard  
King

EMPIRE